

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 OPIC-03

SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 NIC-01 /090 W
----- 124487

P R 191611Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2155

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL ROUNDUP

REFS: (A) LISBON 1521 (NOTAL)

(B) LISBON 1522 (NOTAL)

1. THREE PARTIES SUSPENDED FROM ELECTIONS:

AS REPORTED REF (A), REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL SUSPENDED MARCH 18 THE FAR LEFT MRPP AND THE WORKER-PEASANT ALLIANCE (AOC) AS WELL AS THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC). NONE OF THESE PARTIES MAY RUN CANDIDATES IN THE ELECTIONS NOR CAMPAIGN FURTHER, ALTHOUGH ROUTINE PARTY FUNCTIONS ALLOWED. SUSPENSION IS TO LAST THROUGH ELECTION DAY. DURING THIS PERIOD, PARTIES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PROPAGANDIZE PUBLICLY, NOR ARE THEY PERMITTED TO HOLD RALLIES. PREAMBLE TO NEW DECREE STATES THAT THREE PARTIES ARE SUSPENDED BECAUSE THEY "STAND OUT" FOR THEIR "PROVOCATIVE AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC" ACTIONS, CONTRIBUTING TO A DETERIORATION OF PUBLIC ORDER, DISRESPECT FOR AFM PROGRAM, AND INDISCIPLINE IN ARMED FORCES.

2. ELECTORAL DELAY POSSIBLE:

IN RESPONSE TO RUMORS THAT AN ELECTION DELAY OF UP TO 13 DAYS IS IN THE MAKING (REF B), THE MINISTRY OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS RELEASED A COMMUNIQUE IN THE LATER AFTERNOON OF MARCH 18. STATEMENT SAID THAT GOVERNMENT DOING ALL IN ITS POWER TO CIRCUMVENT CERTAIN TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAVE ARISEN, IN HOPES OF COMPLYING WITH ORIGINAL DATE FOR ELECTIONS. THESE TECHNICAL REASONS ARE ENTIRELY UNRELATED TO MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT. IF A "SLIGHT DELAY" NECESSITATED, GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE KNOWN THIS FACT FORTHWITH, CONCLUDES COMMUNIQUE.

3. NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION REMOVES PARTY REPS:

REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL PASSED A DECREE AT MARCH 18 SESSION REMOVING THE 14 POLITICAL PARTY REPRESENTATIVES FROM WORKING SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (CNE). HENCEFORTH, ONLY THE 14 MILITARY AND GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES WILL OVERSEE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. THE DECREE ESTABLISHES THAT WHEN NEED BE THE CNE MAY CONSULT WITH THE 11 PARTIES RUNNING CANDIDATES, EITHER SEPARATELY OR AS A GROUP. (COMMENT: AN AIDE TO PPD LEADER MAGALHAES MOTA TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 18 THAT PPD THINKS EXCLUSION OF PARTY REPS FROM CNE WORK IS A GOOD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THING, IN ASMUCH AS THE FAR LEFTISTS THERE HAVE CONSISTENTLY INTERRUPTED CNE WORK AND MADE OUTLANDISH PROPOSALS IN ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE ELECTIONS. MOTA BELIEVES THAT REMOVAL OF PARTY REPS FROM CNE WILL LESSEN CHANCE THAT THOSE IN MILITARY OPPOSED TO ELECTIONS CAN CITE INABILITY OF CNE TO FUNCTION AS EXCUSE TO CANCEL ELECTIONS.)

4. CABINET RESHUFFLE:

THE CABINET RESHUFFLE IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED SOON. PRIME
MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES IS EXPECTED TO PUSH OUT MODERATE
MINISTERS LIKE SILVA LOPES, RUI VILAR, VICTOR ALVES,
MARIA PINTASSILGO AND BRING IN MRP LEADER PEREIRA DE MOURA AND
ADDITIONAL MILITARY OFFICERS TO FILL VACANCIES.
CARLCCI

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